

Safety First

Climbing has inherent risks and hazards, and is a potentially dangerous activity. A variety of skills and techniques are required to ensure a safe climbing experience. Please seek qualified instruction before venturing onto the cliffs.

Climbing Overview

The cliffs at New River Gorge are made up of a very hard sandstone, and range from 30 to 120 feet in height. The rock is very featured, and an abundance of crack and face routes are available.

Most of the routes in the gorge favor the advanced and expert climber. The majority of routes are 5.9 and harder, and most sport routes fall in the 5.10 – 5.12 range. A guidebook is an essential tool for locating climbs, and local climbing shops can offer information and specific recommendations.

Where Do I Go?

Climbing in the New River Gorge is spread out over a large area, and is approached from over a dozen different locations. Each climbing location has a slightly different setting and type of climbing available, and approach distances range from a hundred yards to several miles.

For a first-time visitor, the best place to start is the **Bridge Area**. There are a number of moderate routes, and easy access to the cliffs for top-roping. To reach the Bridge Area from Canyon Rim Visitor Center: Go right when leaving the visitor center. Take the next two sharp right turns. Continue until you pass under the New River Gorge Bridge. Several parking areas are located on the left. Park here and take one of the trails up to the cliffs.

Private Property

At this time, only the Bridge Area, Fern Buttress, and Kaymoor climbing sites are on land owned by the National Park Service. Obtain permission before climbing on private property, and respect the rights of landowners.

Guidebooks

New River Rock, Rick Thompson.

Sport Crags of the East, Steve Cater.

Take Me to the River, S. Cater and H. Saab.

Climbing Supplies and Guide Services

Blue Ridge Outdoors – Supplies. 101 E. Wiseman Ave., Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-2425.

Fly'n Brian's Resoles – Supplies. 101 E. Wiseman Ave., Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-3483.

Hard Rock Climbing Services – Guide Service and Supplies. 131 S. Court Street, Fayetteville, WV 25840, (304) 574-0735.

New River Mountain Guides – Guide Service. 101 E. Wiseman Ave., Fayetteville, WV 25840. (304) 574-3872.

Syner's New River Store – Supplies. Lansing Road, Lansing, WV 25862, (304) 574-3549.

Many of the area whitewater outfitters offer limited climbing-related services. They will provide guide services or make reservations for you. For information on whitewater outfitters, call (800) CALLWVA.

In Case of Emergency, call
911

The Access Fund

P.O. Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308
(303) 545-6772



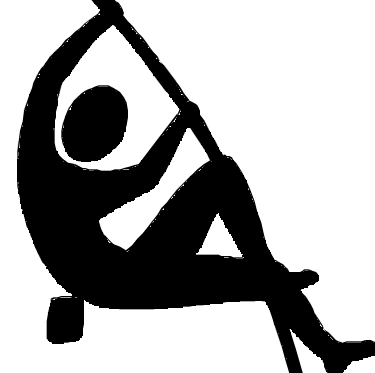
New River Gorge National River

P.O. Box 246
Glen Jean, WV 25846
(304) 465-0508

This brochure funded by The Access Fund.

Where Are The Rocks?

Newcomer's Guide to Climbing at New River Gorge









New River Gorge National River contains miles of cliffs suitable for climbing, and over 1200 established routes. This brochure was designed to help beginning climbers and first-time visitors get oriented to the climbing possibilities in the park — it is not meant to take the place of detailed climbing guidebooks, or substitute for seeking proper instruction.

NEW RIVER CLIMBING AREAS

Note: Only the Bridge Area, Fern Butte, and Kaymoor climbing sites are currently public property.

KEY

-  Primary Road
-  Secondary (4-WD) Road
-  Climbing Area
-  Creek
-  Trail
-  Parking

